

## VIEW TO A COURSE

Tom Fazio, Founder, Fazio Golf

One of the great minds of golf course design talks about plans, partnership, and the evolution of California golf.

*TF: What's the first thing you look for when considering whether to take on a new project?*

TF: It's always the intent or the program, as envisioned by the developer/owner/head person in charge. Also, their attitude. The individual means so much. Creating what we create really only happens when you have the commitment from your client, and good leadership from people at the top.

*TF: After you've agreed to consider a project, what do you look for at the site where you've been asked to build?*

TF: It's all about end results, so it's very important to look at a site and see . . . how do we build the best golf course in the region/area/state, and how it will compare? That is what golfers do in this day and age; they play at one facility and immediately compare it to the best. It's unrealistic, but that's the way.

*TF: Do climate and terrain change your vision for a particular course design?*

TF: Yes, but in my opinion, changes wouldn't be architecturally as drastic as for example having to go from ultra-modern to classic style. What we try to do is look at each golf site individually and what are the landforms and shapes that we have to work with. What percentage of this field is pure artistry? If you know your job and you've done it so long it's become second nature, then it's part of your life. It's up to the other side to start putting labels and romance factor on it. I look at this as a business. I don't look at it as genius. But is it artistic? I do think it's very artistic. My wife is an artist and I see what she goes through to create something new. I sometimes find some of the things I do myself. We're always looking to create something unique, which is definitely an artistic form of a job.

*TF: What is your ultimate goal as a course designer?*

TF: My goal is to create unique, distinctive, individual golf courses—that's why Bighorn is so special to me. It's one of a kind, and the end result is proven to me by the players and members that go there.

*TF: Overall, how do you enjoy working in California?*

TF: You get the desert to the oceanfront to the mountains. There are so many different environments; that's what's so special about California.